

Teacher Notes



Metaphor and Simile in Song

Activity 2 Mining Tunes for Metaphor and Simile

Activity at a Glance

- ◆ **Subject:** English
- ◆ **Subject Area:** English/Language Arts
- ◆ **Category:** Literary Devices
- ◆ **Topic:** Figures of Speech
- ◆ **Grade Level:** 6 - 8
- ◆ **Prerequisites:** None
- ◆ **Total Teaching Time:** 50 minutes

Materials

- ◆ TI-83 Plus
- ◆ TI External Keyboard
- ◆ NoteFolio™ app installed on each TI-83 Plus
- ◆ Overhead projector
- ◆ Computers with Internet access
- ◆ Student Work Sheet: **Metaphor and Simile in Lyrics** (optional)

Activity Overview

Students write lyrics that come to mind from songs as examples of metaphor and simile. They share the lyrics with one another and distinguish between metaphor and simile in the lyrics. They also discuss and debate whether or not these metaphors and similes were used effectively (in other words, did they convey the certain point, message, or emotion that the artist attempted to deliver), and they should interpret the meaning of the metaphor or simile within the context of the song.

Tip

Encourage students to think about their favorite songs for this activity. This will give them a better perspective on the extent to which metaphor and simile are used to craft song lyrics.

Directions

Before the Activity Begins

You may want to use the transparency from Activity 1 as a quick review of metaphor and simile.

Since students will be using actual song lyrics, it may be useful to schedule time in the computer lab so that the students can obtain the actual lyrics to the songs they want to use for the assignment by printing them from the Internet. Be proactive in this; check out sites prior to letting the students browse them. Some possible sources for song lyrics are:

- ◆ www.lyrics.com
- ◆ lyrics.astraweb.com
- ◆ www.songlyrics.co.nz

While these sites were all available at the time of publication, verify that they still exist before providing the URLs to the students.

During the Activity

The assignment for this activity is to have the students search for metaphors and similes in their favorite songs. While many adolescents memorize song lyrics, they can make mistakes. It is best if they obtain the lyrics from a reputable source.

When the students have the lyrics from two or three of their favorite songs, have them record the following in a new NoteFolio™ file. Use the instructions from Activity 1 for opening a new NoteFolio™ file.

For each song selected, the students will record:

- ◆ The song title
- ◆ The composer and artist
- ◆ Specific lyrics that exhibit use of metaphor and/or simile
- ◆ A brief explanation of how the metaphor and/or simile is used

Once this research and note-taking is completed, each student will present a monologue based on the song lyrics they have chosen. In this monologue, they will present the information stored in their NoteFolio™ files, concentrating on the explanations of how metaphor and simile was used. Students can use their NoteFolio™ files as a reference while delivering their monologue.

Note: A paper-based version of this assignment is available as a Student Work Sheet at the end of this activity.

After the Activity

Students should be directed to share the song lyrics with their classmates that they haven't shared aloud, be it in class or outside of class, as a way of encouraging them to continue to consider the practical value of these literary devices.

Homework

Each student should choose their favorite song and identify one or more metaphors or similes in it. Have each student bring the song (CD or tape) to the next class period. They will present a portion of the song to the class (approximately two minutes of "air time"), and their classmates will listen to

identify the literary device used in the lyrics. Remind each student that they need to be ready to explain the metaphor or simile in the song.

Student Work Sheet
Metaphor and Simile in Lyrics

Name: _____

Date: _____

Song 1 Title: _____

Composed by: _____

Recorded by: _____

Lyrics Example 1:

Device used:

Meaning:

Lyrics Example 2:

Device used:

Meaning:

Lyrics Example 3:

Device used:

Meaning:

Song 2 Title: _____

Composed by: _____

Recorded by: _____

Lyrics Example 1:

Device used:

Meaning:

Lyrics Example 2:

Device used:

Meaning:

Lyrics Example 3:

Device used:

Meaning:

Song 3 Title: _____

Composed by: _____

Recorded by: _____

Lyrics Example 1:

Device used:

Meaning:

Lyrics Example 2:

Device used:

Meaning:

Lyrics Example 3:

Device used:

Meaning: